

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend the claims as noted below by the markings.

Please cancel claims 26 and 35 without prejudice.

Claims 1 – 17 (Cancelled)

18.(Currently Amended) A method for printing a carrier material, comprising the steps of:

rotating a printing drum having a plurality of depressions for accepting printing fluid arranged on a surface of the printing drum around its longitudinal axis during a printing event;

introducing a predetermined quantity of a printing fluid by an inking station into depressions moving past the inking station;

employing the printing fluid from some of the depressions moving past a transfer printing location at said transfer printing station for printing the carrier material, and the printing fluid remaining in the rest of the depressions;

removing the printing fluid by a cleaning station from depressions by moving the depressions past the cleaning station;

removing any residual printing fluid remaining after cleaning by said cleaning station using ultrasound; and

operating the cleaning station and the inking station simultaneously during the printing event.

19. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 18, wherein the cleaning station includes ~~contains~~ a cleaning drum that lies parallel to the printing drum and whose surface touches the surface of the printing drum in a cleaning region during cleaning; and the surface of said ~~the~~ cleaning drum is manufactured of an elastic or absorbent material.

20. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of: providing an electrical potential on the cleaning drum that differs from a potential on the surface of the printing drum.

21. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 19, wherein the cleaning station contains a stripper drum that lies parallel to the cleaning drum and whose surface exerts pressure onto the surface of the cleaning drum in a stripping region; and the surface of the stripper drum is fabricated of a hard material.

22. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 18, wherein said step of removing using ultrasound includes further comprising the step of: cleaning emptied depressions with a cleaning fluid activated with ultrasound energy from an ultrasound transmitter after the removal of the printing fluid from depressions moving past the cleaning station and before the introduction of printing fluid into depressions moving past the inking station.

23. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 22, wherein said step of removing using ultrasound includes providing the cleaning station contains a cleaning container with said a cleaning fluid activated with ultrasound energy; and further comprising the step of:

immersing the depressions moving past the cleaning container into the cleaning fluid activated with ultrasound energy so as to transmit the ultrasound energy through the cleaning fluid to clean said depressions of the printing fluid.

24. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said container with a cleaning fluid is arranged under the printing drum.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 22, further comprising the step of:

utilizing the printing fluid as the cleaning fluid.

Claim 26.(Cancelled)

Claim 27 (Cancelled)

28. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of: directing a stream of air to displace printing fluid out of the depressions moving past the cleaning station.

29. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein said cleaning station contains a blower unit to generate said stream of air.

30. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of: drawing in a stream of air at the cleaning station to entrain printing fluid from the depressions moving past the cleaning station.

31. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18, further comprising the steps of: :

collecting the printing fluid removed with by the cleaning station; and
conducting the collected printing fluid to the inking station.

32. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 31, further comprising the step of:

cleaning the printing fluid.

33. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 31, further comprising the step of

rejuvenating the printing fluid.

34. (Currently Amended) A printer device for printing a carrier material, comprising: a printing drum rotating around its longitudinal axis during the printing event and on whose surface a plurality of depressions for the acceptance of printing fluid are arranged; an inking station for introducing a predetermined quantity of printing fluid into depressions that move past the inking station;

a transfer printing station at which printing fluid from some of the depressions moving past the transfer printing location is employed for printing the carrier material, and at which the printing fluid remains in the rest of the depressions moving past the transfer printing station;

a cleaning station for removing printing fluid from depressions that move past the cleaning station;

an ultrasound station including a cleaning fluid activated by ultrasound energy and applied to said printing drum; and

a control unit for actuation of the cleaning station, the control unit simultaneously places the cleaning station and the inking station into operation during the printing event.

Claim 35. (Cancelled)

36. (Withdrawn) A printer device according to claim 34, wherein the cleaning station includes a cleaning drum that lies parallel to the printing drum and whose surface touches a surface of the printing drum in a cleaning region; and further comprising: a connection for applying an electrical potential to surface of the cleaning drum which differs from a potential at the surface of the printing drum.

37.(Currently Amended) A printer device for printing a carrier material, comprising:
a printing drum rotating around its longitudinal axis during the printing event and on whose
surface a plurality of depressions for the acceptance of printing fluid are arranged;
an inking station for introducing printing fluid into depressions that move past the inking
station;
a transfer printing station at which printing fluid from some of the depressions moving past
the transfer printing location is employed for printing the carrier material, and at
which the printing fluid remains in the rest of the depressions moving past the transfer
printing station;
a cleaning station for removing printing fluid from depressions that move past the cleaning
station;
a control unit for actuation of the cleaning station, the control unit simultaneously places the
cleaning station and the inking station into operation during the printing event;
wherein the cleaning station includes a cleaning drum that lies parallel to the printing drum
and whose surface touches a surface of the printing drum in a cleaning region;
a connection for applying an electrical potential to surface of the cleaning drum which differs
from a potential at the surface of the printing drum; according to claim 36,
wherein the cleaning station includes a stripper drum that lies parallel to the cleaning drum and whose surface presses onto the surface of the cleaning drum in a stripping region.

38. (Withdrawn) A printer device according to claims 34, wherein the cleaning station includes a blower unit with whose assistance air is blown into the depressions moving past the cleaning station.

39. (Withdrawn) A printer device as claimed in claim 34, wherein the cleaning station includes a suction unit with whose assistance air is sucked out of the depressions moving past the cleaning station.